OPEN ARMS · P.O. BOX 845 · MISHAWAKA · INDIANA · 46546

FEBRUARY 1993

OPEN ARMS

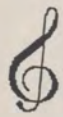
NUMBER 2 VOLUME 5

· · · · · · MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER · · · · · ·

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!

OPEN ARMS CONTINUATION ASSURED

Nine women volunteered to do various tasks to keep Open Arms going at the January 10th meeting. Several others have volunteered since or prior to this time, so Open Arms will continue!

This month the women who previously did each job will be assisted by new women. Next month the new women will put out the newsletter assisted by the previous staff members. Previous staff members will continue to work on O.A. but doing different or fewer tasks and are all very grateful for the support, energy and new ideas becoming available.

So soft, so gentle-
Like a subtle shifting of the summer breeze,
Your voice sings to me of your story.
Sing to me the sounds of your heart and soul-
For that I know.

So clear, so strong
Your eyes seek mine
And in each others eyes we see-
We see the love between us grow.

So smooth, so warm your body next to mine.
Like a lazy ocean wave washing over me,
I feel you in my heart, and this I know-
I call it love.

Passion is a word with meaning when
I'm with you-
And this I know.

In your smile I see the child at play.
Hold me tight, for I might soar away
In my love and delight with you.

Deb

WOMEN AND AIDS

Nationally, women represent 1 of every 7 HIV+ people but in Providence, Rhode Island, where Brown University's Miriam Hospital has been a treatment clinic for AIDS patient for the last seven years women represent 1 of every 2 HIV+ cases.

Dr. Charles Carpenter, who has led the clinic since its beginning and treated hundreds of HIV+ women, says, "One of the issues that has become very, very obvious to me and an issue about which I was pretty ignorant before is the physical and sexual abuse of young women is far more common than I would ever have dreamed of in our society. And that comes out loud and clear because it is that kind of abuse which is behind so many of the young women moving to drugs and obviously the drug use has led to the HIV infection."

A New York study of women who used drugs found 50% had been sexually abused and one half of those were abused as children. To date, no large scale definitive study has been done to determine if sexual abuse is accelerating the spread of AIDS among women by making them more likely to use drugs or to engage in dangerous sexual activities.

PBS show: HEALTH QUARTERLY, January 5, 1993

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NEW ACTIVITY!!

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, February 14
10:00 a.m.

at Tippecanoe Place
620 W. Washington
South Bend

To make reservations
Call Kaye at 271-0338
by Wednesday, February 10th

VIDEO NIGHT

February 12th
7 P.M.

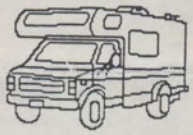
Gloria and Julie's house
Call for directions
(616) 684-4011

Leaving Normal

If you are a "Lahti Da" (member of the Christine Lahti Fan Club), then this is your night. If you are not familiar with Ms. Lahti, then join us to determine whether or not you too are a "Lahti Da".

Leaving Normal is about leaving "Normal" and creating your own family. (Julie and Gloria agree that this film has one beautifully happy ending.)

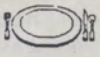
Drinking is O.K.
Smoking outside
Bring snacks to share



THIRD FRIDAY OUT

February 19th
7 p.m.

Mary Ullery's
at the Ramada Inn
52890 U.S. 31/33 North
just north of Cleveland Road
South Bend



For reservations
call Lu or Sheree by February 17th
at a NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER
(616) 684-6365

GAME NIGHT

Saturday, February 20th
7 p.m.
at
Nadine's and Mary's
in White Pigeon, Mich.

Call for directions
(616) 483-7753

Bring your favorite game, drink and a snack to share.

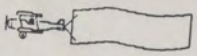
Anyone who would like to open their home to a Game Night contact Sheree at (616) 684-6365

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesdays
7 - 9 p.m.
at Gloria and Julie's
Same location as Video Night

Call (616) 684-4011
for directions

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP WILL BE
HELD EVERY TUESDAY
7-9 P.M.
AT GLORIA AND JULIE'S
UNTIL OTHERWISE NOTIFIED



EVENTS COORDINATORS

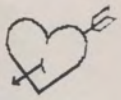
3rd Friday Out: Lu & Sheree (616) 684-6365
Wimin's Video Night: Gloria & Julie (616) 684-4011
Game Night: Sheree (616) 684-6365
Sunday Brunch: Kaye 271-0338

OPEN ARMS STAFF MEMBERS

Jeanne	(219) 287-5071
Laura	(616) 684-7362
Maggie	(219) 287-3124
Mary	(219) 234-5986

Plus others to be announced in March
Call Maggie for Advertising or Subscriptions

LAVENDER MORNING VALENTINE'S DANCE



February 13th

8 p.m. - 1 a.m.

People's Church
Kalamazoo, Mich.

$6 for LM Subscribers
$8 for non-LM Subscribers

Chem free
Music by JP Productions

Call Laura (616) 684-7362
for directions

BLACK TRIANGLE FOR WOMEN

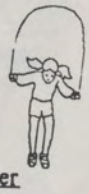
Lesbians may be seen wearing black, rather than pink, triangles. It is said that during the Holocaust while pink triangles were used for gay men, the black triangle used to designate any "unsociable" woman, that is, any woman who went against male domination.

LESBIAN TRIVIA QUESTION: When and why did the color lavender become designated a lesbian color? Answer next month.

LESBIAN/GAY BOOKS
AT THE
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

LESBIAN/GAY **PARENTING**

There are many books at the SJCPL on parent/child relationships. Here are a few books specifically for gay parents. Books with * are available at the Mishawaka Public Library. (South Bend cardholders have borrowing privileges with Mishawaka libraries and vice versa). Books with "j" before the call numbers are in Children's Services.



306.874 T343 — There's Something I've Been Meaning To Tell You by Loralee Pike. Naiad Press, 1989.

306.766 J948L — Long Way Home: The Odyssey of a Lesbian Mother and Her Children by Jeanne Jullion. Cleis Press, 1985.

301.4157 G211 — Whose Child Cries: Children of Gay Parents Talk About Their Lives by Joe Gantz. Jalmar Press, 1983. *

301.4157 F165 — What Every Parent Should Know About Homosexuality by Betty Fairchild. Harcourt, 1979. *

301.4157 S386 — Gay Parenting by Joy Schulenburg. Doubleday, 1985. *

j306.85 J435f — Families: A Celebration of Diversity, Commitment and Love by Aylette Jenness. Houghton Mifflin, 1990.

301.4157 G851 — Beyond Acceptance: Parents of Lesbians and Gays Talk About Their Experience by Carolyn Welch Griffin. Prentice Hall, 1986.

301.4157 D5695 — Different Daughters: A Book by Mothers of Lesbians by Louise Rafkin. Cleis Press, 1987.

306.874 D568 — Different Mothers: Sons and Daughters of Lesbians Talk About Their Lives by Louise Rafkin. Cleis Press, 1990.

j Middle Grades — The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans and Other Stories by Johnny Valentin. Alyson Press, 1991.

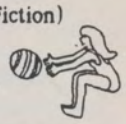
j — Daddy's Roomate by Michael Willhoite. Alyson Press, 1991. Parent's Shelf

j — Heather Has Two Mommies by Leslea Newman. Alyson Press, 1991. Parent's Shelf (IN CATALOGING).

BOOKS TO CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY:

Patience and Sarah by Isabel Miller. Fawcett Press. (Fiction) ON ORDER.

B St34s — Gertrude and Alice by Diana Souhami. Pandora, 1992.



306.766 B 463p — Permanent Partners: Building Gay and Lesbian Relationships That Last by Betty Berzon. E. P. Dutton, 1988.

306.7663 J637s — Staying Power: Long Term Lesbian Couples by Susan Johnson. Naiad Press, 1990.

306.738 C334 — Ceremonies of the Heart: Celebrating Lesbian Unions. The Seal Press, 1990.

NEXT MONTH: Books for gay teens (fiction and non-fiction) plus some NEW L/G titles

American Women's Trans-Antarctic Expedition--AWE (AnnMarie)

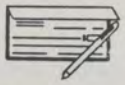
Have you ever imagined a desert being cold? Not just at night, but all the time? Extreme below zero temperatures, -50 F without a windchill? No leaves, trees, animals? Try to imagine the coldest, windiest and driest place on earth. Got an image? Now imagine yourself skiing across this incredible place with three other women, pulling a 200 pound sled for four months over 1500 miles of 'white plains'.

In November of 1992, when Summer began in the Southern hemisphere, four American women (Ann Bancroft, Anne Del Vera, Sue Giller and Sunniva Sorby) started their adventure across the 'white plains' of Antarctica. As of January 12, 1993 they were 25 miles from the South Pole, according to the latest radio communication. When they reach the Pole they will have traveled 660 miles across the ice.

The team is expected to reach the Pole by January 15 and then proceed to McMurdo Base to catch a boat to leave the continent. The boat leaves on February 17 which means they have a little more than a month to ski another 910 miles. One advantage to the next part of their journey is that they will hopefully be able to use "Upskiis" to catch the wind adding miles to their days. (Upskiis are a parachute-like apparatus that is harnessed to the chest and pulls a person along.) Families and friends hope to see the team members in Minnesota by mid-March.

One of the most important aspects of the journey is the educational component that was created for use in schools. Teachers and students across the country have been encouraged to use the expedition not only as a way to learn about Antarctica, but also to explore and discuss other issues that are related to a trip such as this. Ann Bancroft, team leader and a teacher, hopes people will look beyond the four months of travel and consider leadership, self-esteem, planning and goal-setting, women's issues, environmental concerns and more.

The American Women's Trans-Antarctic Expedition is a commitment to education, exploration, trust and discovery about our world, how and what women do and who women are as individuals.



AWE continues to need our support. Tell others about AWE, find articles about the expedition and share them with friends, keep the women in your thoughts, (especially when you think it's cold here) buy an AWE t-shirt, available through the AWE office at the following address. If you are able to support the expedition financially, send your check to:

AWE, 2356 University Ave,
4th Floor, St. Paul, MN 55114

Make checks payable to AWE.

If you would like up-to-date information on the team's progress call (612) 641-1919 after 5pm and before 8am (Central time) for a recorded message. If you wish to talk with someone about shirts or other fundraising ideas/events, call the same number between 8am-5pm Central time.

(Information for this article was gathered through FOOTPRINTS, "Ann Bancroft Reaches for ANTARCTICA a Fifteen Hundred-Mile Dream", by Deborah Liv Johnson, Winter 1992 and MINNESOTA WOMEN'S PRESS, "Over Halfway to the Pole", December 30, 1992.)

LAVENDER RHYTHM DANCE UPDATE

Lavender Rhythm apologizes for any inconvenience caused by the need to cancel the New Year's dance at the last minute but, given the weather, perhaps the Goddess was working with us. If any women slid into town for the dance we hope they made it home safely.

We hope to have a spring dance, depending on whether we find a suitable hall.

At this point it looks like the cancellation of the New Year's dance was not based on the fact that this was a woman's dance, but we will have further information on that later.

A SUGGESTION FOR OUR CB'r SISTER:

Lavender Rose

From a HAM sister in Ohio:
WDALGU

COMMUNITY AGENDA SETTING MEETING

February 8th
7-9 p.m.
In the basement of the
St. Joseph County Main Library
304 S. Main St.
South Bend

Sponsored by the Lesbian & Gay Committee of St. Joe Valley NOW

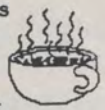
The Committee's goal for the evening is to unite the community, facilitate information sharing and identify some main concerns of the community. Input will be sought from representatives of various local groups as well as any individual attending.

Her Side or Mine

*by **Brenda Direen***

It's two years later. I still feel hurt by nasty things I'd heard she said about me. We talk and I find she's hurt by things she's heard I'd said about her. We'd been hearing these things through the grapevine, you know, a couple breaks up, people tell you things about your ex, innocently. Two years later, she confronts me on one of these things, then another, both untrue, both nasty mean things I never said. I sit dazed, unable to hear what she's saying because I'm wondering, how many things do I feel hurt by that she never said!?

We've all been there—at least many of us have. We leave a relationship and suddenly our social life becomes strained—friends who once seemed to care about us do not speak to us. We find our friends out having coffee with her, while our 3 calls go unanswered.



Some of us seem to side with the self-proclaimed victim. We know how to address the drama of a woman done wrong, a woman in pain, in crisis. Do we know how to address a woman feeling empowered by her new-found strength to do what she knows is healthy for her—to leave?

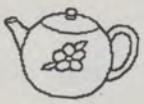
When relationships end, both women have their grief, their disbelief that it's really over. Both women have their deep need for support. What we do not have a need for is gossip and side-taking. It's hard to stay friends with both women, to hear both sides and how different the stories may sound. Reality is, they are two different people with different histories and issues that have them seeing things differently, and some things in common. No one is usually right or wrong, they are just both sorting through their separate issues, attempting to heal.

Perhaps it is our culture's slant toward co-dependency that does not allow us to see their autonomy. Instead we look for one story line to believe and all good stories must have an antagonist, the one we choose to side against.

We are not only hurting one another by gossiping and shutting out the women who "sound" the worst, according to one side; we are hurting our grieving sisters by not allowing them, and us, to see the example of healthy listening. *Yes, I hear you, yes I believe you, I love you and yes I am also friends with your ex and support her.* We do not have to disbelieve one to believe the other. We simply need to acknowledge autonomy; two women with different issues to heal, therefore different pictures of what happened.

This does not make for good drama or good gossip—it does make for good friends and growth in us all.

May we all be strong in saying "no, I don't care to hear the latest gossip in town, and if you don't mind, I have two very needed pots of tea to deliver."



Reprinted with permission from Brenda, The Word Is Out, Columbus, Ohio.

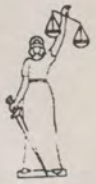
AIN'T I A WOMAN AWARDS POTLUCK

sponsored by the local NOW chapter
will be held February 26th

6:30 p.m.
Y.W.C.A. Main Lounge
802 N. Lafayette
South Bend

Nominees for the awards will be accepted until February 16th. Nominate a woman of color who has overcome some obstacle in her life. The woman need not be well known.

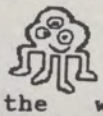
Submit the woman's name and information on why you are nominating her to
Rhoda Bradshaw
288-7123



LESBIAN CUSTODY BATTLE LOST

A North Carolina lesbian couple lost a custody battle with a gay male who was a sperm donor for their child. Papers had been signed between the lesbians and the male which dropped any responsibility of parenting for the male. After the child was born, the male failed to honor the signed agreement and tried to be a "father" parent to the child. The lesbians took the matter to court only to lose.

- Gloria (info from Lesbian Connection and originally from Gay People's Chronicle)



Dear Open Arms -

You may recall the writing I last submitted. Well, I just found the above information in my Lesbian Connection which certainly lends direct support to what I wrote.

I see this came from Gay People's Chronicle. I would guess that homo males are pleased with their hetero brothers ruling in favor of them.

All women need to be aware of the true nature of all males. We did not get closed out of places of power by accident. We have not been treated as inferior by accident.

From everything I've seen in my 49 years, gay men are on the game field of men - not women, not Lesbians. Our time and resources are too precious to be spent on them.

Have a good day!

- Gloria

MAKING RAPE A WAR CRIME

There is a move afoot to add rape to the list of war crimes in the Geneva Convention.

MICHIGAN ANTI- LESBIAN/GAY BALLOT PROPOSAL DROPPED

Carl Kellogg, a vice president of the Grand Rapids office of McDonald & Co. Securities, Inc. abandoned his plans for a 1994 Colorado-type ballot proposal for Michigan after meetings with his corporate superiors and members of a Grand Rapids gay rights group.

- info from 1/12/93 Detroit Free Press

BLACK INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

March 17 - 21

at I.U.S.B.

There will be at least 60 films shown at this festival. All films shown must be anti-racist, anti-sexist and not homophobic. About 12 of the films deal with women's issues and there are some on lesbian and gay issues. Tickets can be purchased for 1 or more films. More information in the March O.A.

EDITORIAL POLICY--We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested. Our mailing list is kept strictly confidential and is not shared with any other group.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR OPEN ARMS -- $10.00/year

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

Telephone Number_____

Birthday_____ Anniversary_____

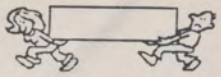
Make check payable to Open Arms and mail it to P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546

WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

"Becoming a Dangerous Woman"

Sponsored by the
Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom

March 6th
6:30 - 11:30 p.m.
Colfax Cultural Center
914 Lincoln Way West
South Bend



INFORMATION SOUGHT

Chris Lopez, 203 Memorial, Valparaiso, IN 46383 is working on a project dealing on the dynamics of various groups--feminist, lesbian, gay--working together.

Speakers are also needed. Contact her for more information.

PRIDE WEEKEND IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Gay Pride March - April 25, 1993
Round trip train fare
plus
Two nights lodging downtown

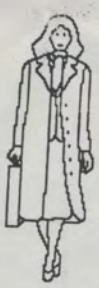
$150.00

Sponsored by Pride Action Committee

For more info call Marcia at 287-1302

NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - HOME SCHEDULE

2/4	LaSalle	7:30 p.m. Thr.
2/6	Duquesne	7:30 p.m. Sat.
2/11	Xavier	7:30 p.m. Thr.
2/13	Dayton	7:30 p.m. Sat.
3/4	Butler	7:30 p.m. Thr.
3/6	Evansville	2:00 p.m. Sat.
3/8-10	Midwestern Collegiate Conf. Championship at N.D.	



SPECTRUM

Spectrum was formed in September, 1992 to fill a need for a social group consisting of the gay and lesbian business and professional community and other interested persons.

Dinner meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month and are designed as a non-political forum for socialization and networking. There is discussion of publishing a directory of gay/lesbian/friendly businesses in the Michiana area.

For more information call (219) 256-1153 or write to Spectrum, 114 West 9th St., Mishawaka, IN 46544.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that female athletes have their own Civil Rights day? We do! It's February 4 and this year marks the fifth annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. It was originally organized in 1987 as a memorial to Flo Hyman, a former Olympic and professional volley ball player who died suddenly in 1986. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives past a resolution designating a chosen day in February as NGWSD. One of the highlights of NGWSD is the presentation of the Flo Hyman Award in Washington D.C. It goes annually to a woman who exemplifies spirit, dignity and commitment to excellence in her sport. other events have included Congressional press conferences, celebrity basketball games and sports clinics. . Two organizations that mother NGWSD are Women's Sports Foundation and National Association for Girls and Women in Sports.

excerpt from FANS OF WOMEN'S SPORTS NEWSLETTER by Marcia

ANNE V. WHITCOMB M.A.
Counseling for Growth & Health

30907 CR 16 West
Elkhart. Indiana 46516

(219) 674-6957

Happy Susan B. Anthony's Birthday!
February 15

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the March Open Arms is February 10th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to any O. A. staff member. Submissions received after February 10th may not be published in the March newsletter.

Newsletter meeting: NEW DATE AND TIME--Sunday, February 14, 1993 at 2121 Hollywood Place, South Bend, 6:00 p.m. Call Jeanne, 287-5071 for directions.

DID YOU KNOW?

A lesbian mystery by Katherine Forrest, Murder at the Nightwood Bar, is being filmed by Tim Hunter for release later this year.

DID YOU KNOW

That the Detroit News has a daily column by a lesbian, Deb Price?

LESBIAN AND GAY AA GROUPS

Sundays - Elkhart General Hospital
Renaissance Unit
2nd Floor
7 p.m.

Mondays - First Unitarian Church
101 E. Northshore
South Bend
7 p.m.
(1st meeting of the month is an open meeting)

Saturdays - First Unitarian Church
101 E. Northshore
South Bend
8 p.m.

PRECEDENT FINANCIAL CORPORATION

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Bus: 1-800-333-1732
Res: (219) 287-3257

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February

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	AA 7P.M. SOUTH BEND 1	LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP 7-9 P.M. 2	3	4	5	AA 8 P.M. SOUTH BEND 6
AA 7 P.M. ELKHART 7	AGENDA SETTING MEETING 7-9 P.M. 8	9	10	11	VIDEO NIGHT 7 P.M. 12	WOMEN'S DANCE 8pm- 1 AM KALAMAZOO 13
BRUNCH 10:00 OPEN ARMS MEETING 6 P.M. 14	SUSAN B ANTHONY'S BIRTHDAY 15	16	17	18	3rd FRIDAY OUT 7 P.M. 19	GAME NIGHT 7 P.M. 20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

GAYS IN THE MILITARY

Let our voices be heard in Washington. Call your Sen.& Reps. today.

In Ind. call	
Romer	288-3301
Coates	1-202-224-5623
Lugar	1-202-224-4814
In Mich. call	
Upton	1-202-225-3761
Reagel	1-202-224-4822
Levin	1-202-224-6221

OTHER COMING EVENTS...

FEB 3rd-NOW-St. Joe Valley Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, YWCA

FEB 6th-**MARCIA WILKIE**-Original comic performance pieces. Mountain MovingCoffeehouse, Chicago, IL call (312) 561-6544 or (312) 685-8310 for information.

FEB 13th-LESBIANS OF COLOR-Mountain Moving Coffeehouse.

FEB 20th-WOMEN IN THE DIRECTORS'S CHAIR -An evening of recent films and videos by women-Mountaing Moving Coffeehouse, Chicago.

Gay Pride Meeting-Call 287-1302 for time, date, and directions.

4th Sunday-P-FLAG Meeting-2-4PM, Christ the King Lutheran Church 17195 Cleveland Rd, South Bend